

*India sugars at a reasonable duty. It is probable, indeed, that it would long since have been entirely extinguished but for the addition made to the duties on colonial and foreign sugars in 1820 and 1822. After the last mentioned epoch between the production of beet root sugar began rapidly to increase, and such was its progress that though in 1828 its produce did not exceed four millions of kilogrammes, it amounted in 1838 to more than thirty-nine millions of kilogrammes."*

Mr. McCulloch, a free trade authority, tells us that this industry was planted in Protection; that it would have died out early, and was dying out after Napoleon's policy had passed away, owing to the free trade ideas that were in vogue after that time—but for another measure of protection which revived its drooping life. Let us see something further about the history of that industry. The first great impulse it had received was by means of Protection under the first Napoleon, and the final impulse which resulted in its<sup>f</sup> assured success took place in the days of Louis Napoleon, in 1857. I will now quote from an official return which I think may be depended upon as correct :—

In 1857, the product of sugar was nearly 40,000 tons. About this time, Napoleon the Third turned his attention to this subject; *its protection was secured, and the following results were obtained by protection :—*In 1862, 170,000 tons of sugar were made in France; in 1868, 275,000 tons; in 1873, 396,000 tons; in 1876, 462,000 tons, or an increase of 125 fold."

Mr. MILLS, what amount of protection was given ?

Mr. COLBY—I can not at this moment state the percentage, but it was sufficient to accomplish the purpose as a strict measure of protection. It was deemed and recognised as being high—in fact as an advance upon the protection to which Mr. McCulloch referred. I will give McCulloch again in a moment, with regard to the effect of protection on this industry, but in the meantime will quote from another high authority :—

In 1870-6, France produced as much as 462,000 tons of beet sugar annually. Yet she imported about 200,000 tons annually of cane and other sugars. And she so regulated her tariff as to do a refining business in foreign sugars as well as to produce and refine sugars of her own. The whole is refined in France is 225,000 tons, are annually consumed and the balance of about 437,000 tons is exported. The carrying trade in sugar alone, *though proper protection to this home industry, has therefore increased in 46 years from 35,000 tons to 862,000 tons, this is counting the importation and exportation of sugar, added to the local consumption. To this enormous trade thus created must be added the consumption of two million tons of coal required for the manufacture of beet sugar alone, besides the innumerable benefits to commerce and still greater benefits to agriculture obtained by the creation of such a stupendous industry. In fact it is well ascertained that France would never have survived from the disasters of her late war had it not been for the immense agricultural wealth created and hoarded all over the country either through its beet sugar factories or its wine culture."*

#### A Well Established Leading Industrial Pursuit.

I will now quote again from Mr. McCulloch, and perhaps the hon. the Premier will be able to reconcile it with his assumption to the contrary :—

"Hence it would appear that what was long considered as a sort of exotic industry, introduced when colonial sugar was excluded from the Continent, and *depending is great measure on Custom House Regulations, will probably become a well established, leading industrial pursuit."*